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Reprint from SURGERY, GYNECOLOGY AND OBSTETRICS, October, 1927, pages 564-566

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EDWARD HICKLING BRADFORD

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DR. BRADFORD was a prominent figure in the group of Boston surgeons during the last part of the nineteenth century and the early part of the twentieth. While he always maintained a lively interest in general surgery, and held, at times, a number of positions which required much purely surgical work, his special concern and his principal activities lay along the lines of orthopedic surgery, in which specialty he was one of the outstanding pioneers in America.

He was born in Boston, June 9, 1848, being descended from old New England stock—an early governor of the State being one of his direct ancestors. After a preliminary education in the preparatory schools, he entered Harvard College, and graduated in 1869. He then began his medical education at the Harvard Medical School, where he graduated in 1873, receiving the degree of M.D. Crossing, then, to Europe, he passed two years in visiting the various medical centers, where he attended lectures and clinics. While in England he worked many months with Dr. Owen Thomas, of Liverpool, a pioneer in joint surgery, and the inventor of the splint called after his name. Upon his return to America, he went to New York, and there followed the surgical work of Dr. Charles Fayette Taylor. Finally he came back to Boston, where he established himself, and began the practice of his profession.

For a long period he worked with Dr. Buckminster Brown at the House of the Good Samaritan. This institution was the first one in Boston where the bone and joint diseases of children were regarded as belonging to a special branch of surgery, and where, as such, they were carefully studied and treated. In course of time Dr. Bradford succeeded Dr. Brown as surgeon in charge of this institution. Early in his career, he was invited to join the surgical department of the Boston City Hospital, and of the Boston Dispensary, and also that of the Children's Hospital, at all of which institutions he worked hard and faithfully for many years, gaining much valuable experience, and being gradually promoted from one grade to another until in all of them he reached the highest position. As time went on, he devoted more and more of his attention and energies to orthopedic surgery; and for this reason he became more and more closely associated with the Children's Hospital; and, it was largely here that he thought out and made known the correct pathology of congenital dislocation of the hip, and later

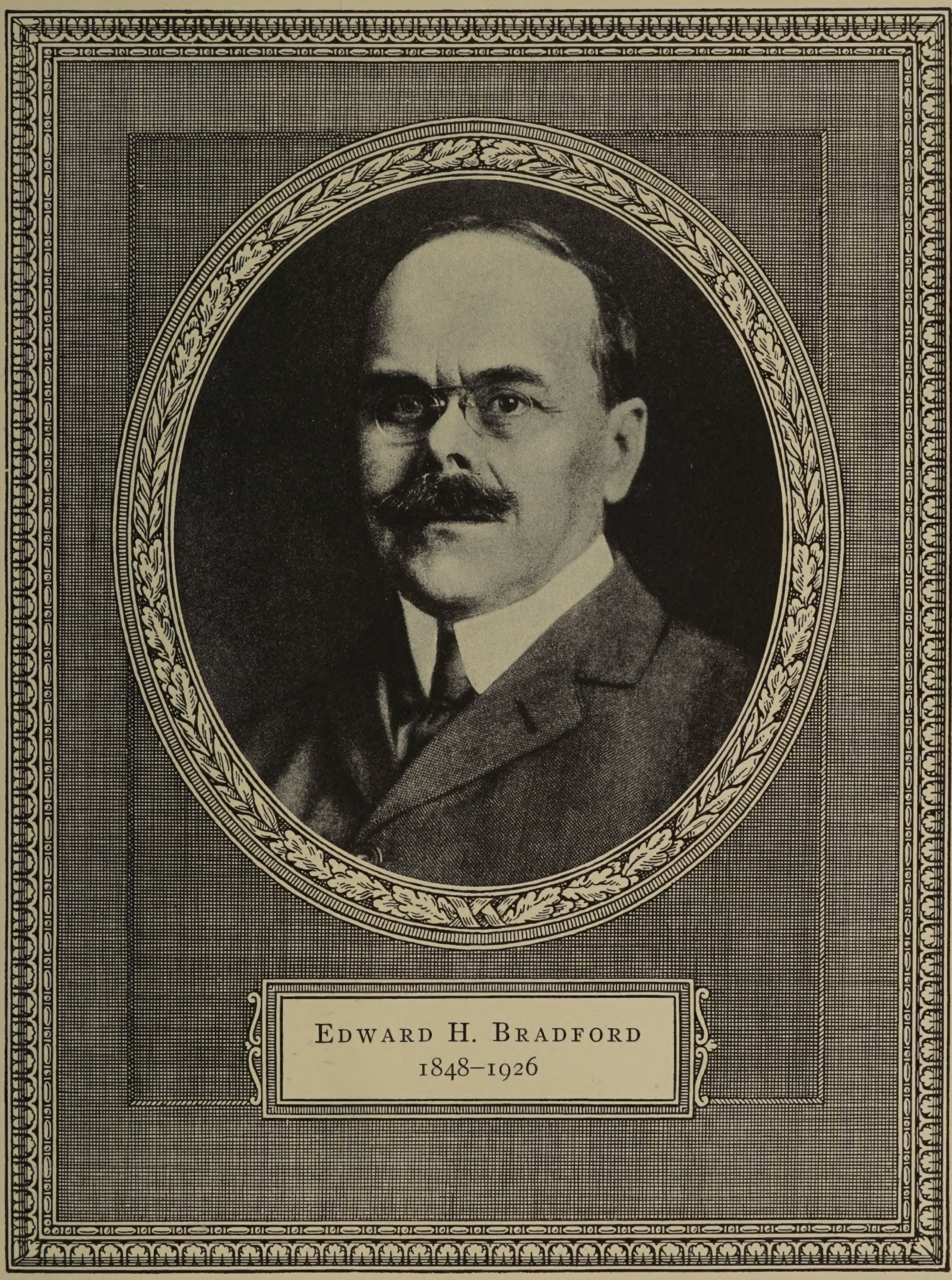
instituted the proper methods for its treatment. He also invented, for the treatment of Pott's disease, the simple and useful frame which ever since then has borne his name. Of the many other pieces of orthopedic apparatus brought out by him may be mentioned the Bradford abduction hip-splint, which has been very successfully used in the ambulatory treatment of caries of the hip joint.

In 1880, he joined the surgical department of the Harvard Medical School, with the title of clinical instructor of orthopedic surgery; and he was gradually promoted until, in 1903, he was made full professor, being the first person to hold the Buckminster Brown professorship of orthopedic surgery. He retained this position until 1912, and, during this long time (1880–1912), except for a brief period, he gave much of his time and attention to teaching. In this he was very practical, and he believed emphatically in the use of models and illustrations of all kinds to make clear his points. In the course of his teaching, he used a very large collection of lantern slides, a collection which he himself had made, and which he later presented to the School. In 1912 he was made Dean of the School, and he discharged the duties of this office for six years. During this time, and in fact for the rest of his life, he was greatly interested in the welfare of the students, with whom he tried always to keep in very close personal touch. To use the words of President Lowell: "He gave a new birth to orthopedic surgery in this country, and his administration as Dean prepared the way for the developments of the School that have since taken place." In 1919, he was elected an overseer of Harvard College, and his interest in the College and the School never abated. The Board of Overseers of the College voted, some weeks previous to his death, to confer upon him the degree of doctor of science (S.D.) and this decision was announced by President Lowell at Commencement, June 24, 1926.

He belonged to a number of professional societies, national as well as local, and he was constant in his attendance at meetings, he himself making frequent contributions. His book on *Orthopedic Surgery*, which, with the late Dr. Robert W. Lovett, he published after his many years of rich experience, marked a distinct epoch in the development of the specialty of which it treated; and it went through five editions.

Although most of his time was passed in attending to his work at the hospitals and at the medical school, as well as to his own private practice, an extensive one, he found opportunity also for other activities, for he was president of the trustees of the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, chairman of the board of trustees of the Massachusetts Hospital School (Canton, Massachusetts), a trustee of the School for Crippled and Deformed Children, a trustee of Simmons College from the time of its inception, and a trustee of the Boston Library Association, an institution founded in 1791.

During the Spanish War, and also during the World War, he offered his services to the Government, and as they were accepted, he did for the country



EDWARD H. BRADFORD
1848–1926

during those trying times much professional and semi-professional work, which was of distinct value.

All these activities were pursued in spite of gradually increasing impairment of vision, the result of an injury received from an accident in middle life. Toward the end of his life he took up the study of Braille, in order to keep himself in touch with the outside world. He studied hard, became very proficient in its use, and derived much pleasure from it.

Dr. Bradford died suddenly of cerebral hæmorrhage on May 7, 1926, in his seventy-eighth year. Funeral services, conducted by his lifelong friend and classmate, Rev. Francis G. Peabody, were held in Appleton Chapel in Cambridge (the Chapel of Harvard College), where he had worshipped all his life; and Dr. Peabody's eulogy in memory of Dr. Bradford was eloquent and touching. Obituary notices appeared in many periodicals in this country and abroad. The *British Medical Journal*, among others, gave a full account of Dr. Bradford's life and works, and referred to his loss as that of "a notable figure from the dwindling group of pioneers of orthopedic surgery."

In the high-grade work that Dr. Bradford, by his intelligence, ingenuity, and persistent labor, has done, he has made a very generous contribution to the world, as indeed all those who are in a position to know fully appreciate.

Besides this, he was a man of culture. He was very fond of art, and was familiar with the best works of painting, sculpture, and architecture both here and abroad. Few men, moreover, have been so beloved by their fellows as he was, for his modest and kindly nature, combined with his courage and his insistent desire to help others, attracted the attention and admiration of all who knew him. To them the thought of Dr. Bradford's life and accomplishments, but, above all, the remembrance of his personality, will always be a source of pleasure and of inspiration.

PRINTED BY R. R. DONNELLEY & SONS CO., AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, U.S.A.